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COMMITTEE ON IMAGERY REQUIREMENTS AND EXPLOITATION

NRO review(s) completed.

6 December 1973

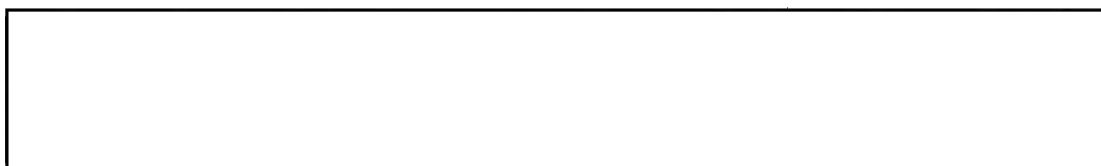
MEMORANDUM FOR: National Intelligence Officer for
the Middle East

SUBJECT : Current Need for GIANT REACH Photo-
Reconnaissance of the Middle East

1. Intelligence community components have reviewed the need for current GIANT REACH photography of the Middle East and are unanimous in recommending that a mission be flown as soon as operationally feasible and weather conditions assure extensive clear coverage.

2. The 2 December GIANT REACH mission encountered bad weather; approximately 80 percent of the area photographed was cloud or haze-covered. As a consequence, the mission yielded only fragmentary information on those areas of military activity that continue to be of highest priority concern.

3. The principal substantive problems for which current GIANT REACH photography is needed are the following:



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b. Photo-coverage of vehicle concentrations northeast of Damascus continues to be needed to attempt to determine whether Soviet combat forces are associated with these concentrations.

c. Intelligence continues to be inconclusive on SCUD activity in the UAR, although reports continue. Additional photo-coverage could provide data on this problem, and would be planned with this in mind.

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4. No specific information has been identified which generates an urgent immediate need for a GIANT REACH mission. Rather, the need is to update information across the board. The next increment of satellite photography will not be recovered until about 16 December, and will be available for readout about 18-19 December. It is assumed that Secretary Kissinger's visit to the Middle East beginning 13 December will rule out GIANT REACH activity during that time.

5. In sum, if there are no political considerations which militate against a GIANT REACH mission within the next week, intelligence community components recommend that approval be sought for a mission to be flown 9-12 December with essentially the same mission profile as the GIANT REACH mission of 2 December.

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References:

Memo ExSec 40 Comm dtd 11/30/73
from DCI dtd 11/21/73
Memo dtd 11/21/73

Gen. Chou

MEMORANDUM FOR: NIO/ME

Sam:

Attached is the memorandum recommending a GIANT REACH mission for 9-12 December. Its substance has been reviewed and concurred in DIA (Adm. de Poix), CIA (including Ed Proctor, OSR, IAS), NPIC (including John Hicks) and with State, Army, Navy, Air & NSA via COMIREX representation.



25X1A 6 December 1973
(DATE)